

GRAPLAIN SCHOOL LIBRARY

STAFF STUDY
CH(CAPT)WM H MERTZ
CLASS C-22
FORT SLOCUM,
N.Y.

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Chaplain School
Fort Slocum, N.Y.
1 April 1962

File No. 1.

SUBJECT: CHAPLAIN TRAINING.

1. PROBLEM. To improve Chaplain training in order to provide better Character Guidance instruction.
2. ASSUMPTIONS.
 - a. The present Character Guidance program will continue to be the Official Department of the Army program to motivate all soldiers at all command levels.
 - b. The American soldier of tomorrow will need as strong, if not stronger, motivation; if our Nation and the cause of freedom is to survive.
3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.
 - a. Character Guidance instruction or Orientation is mandatory for all officers and enlisted men in the Army.
 - b. Normally Character Guidance instruction or Orientation will be given by the Chaplain.
 - c. Survey shows that present Character Guidance program could be greatly improved.
 - d. Better training of the Chaplain would mean better presentations with greater chance of influencing the lives of the soldiers.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - A. Advantages would flow from improved Chaplain training to the following:
 - (1) The Nation would benefit from better motivated soldiers who understand the obligations as well as the privileges of freedom.
 - (2) The officers and the enlisted men would benefit individually, since improved instruction would help them to understand their role in preserving freedom.
 - (3) Army Chaplains would benefit since genuine enthusiasm would spur them on to greater effort.
 - (4) Improvement of Chaplain training would not involve great financial outlay; but would rather concentrate on making better use of available resources.

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- B. The only disadvantage is change involves a certain amount of confusion as well as loss of time and money.
- C. Proposed changes in the Chaplain training:
 - (1) Change in Chaplain School curriculum.
(Annex B, Discussion)
 - (2) Yearly Character Guidance seminar.
(Annex C, Discussion)
- 5. CONCLUSION. Chaplain training should be improved by a change in the Chaplain School curriculum and by the adoption of yearly Character Guidance seminars.
- 6. ACTION RECOMMENDED.
 - a. That the conclusion in paragraph 5 be approved.
- Annexes: A-Facts: Survey of present Character Guidance instruction
 - B-Discussion: Proposed change in Chaplain School curriculum.
 - C-Discussion: Proposed yearly mandatory seminar on Character Guidance instruction.

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ANNEX A, FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

The following questions and answers were obtained from active duty Army Chaplains attending the Career Course at Fort Slocum, New York Chaplain School in March 1962.

1. Question: Do you feel that the Character Guidance program now in use in the Army is a good one?
Answer: Yes-3; No-7
2. Question: Do you feel that the Character Guidance program now in use in the Army is basically a good one?
Answer: Yes-10; No- none
3. Question: Do you feel that changing the training of the Chaplain would improve Character Guidance instruction?
Answer: Yes 9; No-1
4. Question: Do you feel that regular attendance of all active duty Chaplains at professional quality seminars demonstrating the latest methods and teaching aids for presenting Character Guidance would help?
Answer: Yes-10; No- none
5. Question: Do you think that a change in the course emphasis at the Chaplain School to place more stress on the actual preparation and presentation of Character Guidance topics would help?
Answer: Yes-10; No- none
6. Question: What single thing would you suggest to improve the Character Guidance program?
Answer: 4- Change the courses at Chaplain School.
2- Improve the Character Guidance manuals and see that each Chaplain gets one regularly.
1- Get the teaching aids to the Chaplains in time to use them.
1- Make a modern training film periodically to illustrate the different types of approach and how to solve the problems that arise.
1- Make a regular survey of the men who attend the Character Guidance lectures to obtain their reactions.
1- Have a system of regular monitoring and on the spot critique after the presentation of all the Army Chaplains.

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ANNEX B, DISCUSSION

The following is a proposed change in the Chaplain School curriculum.

1. A definite emphasis in both the Basic and Career courses at the Army Chaplain school should be placed on the actual Character Guidance presentation in all its various forms including skits. The strong and weak points inherent in each system should be brought out, and a "professional" demonstration of how to make a delivery.
2. A course should be devoted to the explanation, demonstration, and actual use of the latest training aids and teaching aids such as slides, transparencies and charts. A special section of this course would be the designing and making of simple training aids from readily available materials or by any Post Engineers.
3. While attending the Chaplain School a Character Guidance lecture should be prepared with full use of training aids and helps and this lecture should be delivered to a live audience of soldiers at a nearby Post as their regular monthly Character Guidance lecture. This lecture would be monitored by a trained person and a critique should be made in private immediately following.
4. A course should be devoted to the best possible use of movies to help in teaching. There are so many films available through the military it seems a shame that better use is not made of them in their original purpose as a help, and not just as entertainment or time killers.

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ANNEX C, DISCUSSION

The following is a proposal to set up an annual mandatory seminar for all active duty Army Chaplains. This contact with the latest and the best in Character Guidance presentation, would come to all Chaplains and not merely the ones at the Chaplain School.

1. An annual mandatory 3 day session should be set up for all active duty Army Chaplains, with Character Guidance instruction as its main theme.
2. These meetings would be held at least for a 2 week period on an Army Area basis in the United States and in the logical major Command centers overseas to enable all Chaplains on a staggered plan to attend for 3 days.
3. The courses at these seminars would be conducted by professionals on a professional level.
4. The latest methods and training aids, to include films and manuals, would be explained, demonstrated; and then made available.
5. Large groups of Chaplains would be divided into small classes for the demonstration of various techniques and to bring about more personal contact.
6. The following advantages would flow from this concept:
 - a. The Chaplains who present Character Guidance instruction, would have the chance to see first hand how it is done well; and the proper use of training aids.
 - b. Those who make up the manuals and have a great deal to do with designing training aids would have a wonderful opportunity to come in contact with the Chaplains who use their products. Together they would be able to determine their effectiveness.
 - c. Such an annual mandatory conference would be beneficial not only in regard to Character Guidance, but would help the isolated Chaplains see the big picture; and would give the Chaplains in administration a better picture of what is happening in the field.

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